

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF SOUTH CAROLINA

CHIEF HEARING OFFICER DIRECTIVE

DOCKET NO. 2019-365-E ORDER NO. 2021-25-H

MARCH 2, 2021

CHIEF HEARING OFFICER: David Butler

DOCKET DESCRIPTION:

Exploration of a South Carolina Competitive Procurement Program for the Competitive Procurement of Energy and Capacity from Solar and Other Renewable Energy Facilities by an Electrical Utility as Allowed by South Carolina Code Section 58-41-20(E)(2)

MATTER UNDER CONSIDERATION:

Petition to Intervene of South Carolina Coastal Conservation League (“SCCCL”) and Southern Alliance for Clean Energy (“SACE”)

CHIEF HEARING OFFICER’S ACTION:

This matter comes before the Chief Hearing Officer on the Petition to Intervene of South Carolina Coastal Conservation League and Southern Alliance for Clean Energy. No objections to the intervention have been filed.

Under Commission regulations, the Commission must determine whether or not the petitioning party has clear factual support or grounds for the proposed intervention. S.C. Regs. 103-825A(3) requires that parties making a Petition to Intervene in a matter pending before the SC Public Service Commission must set forth clearly and concisely:

- (a) The facts from which the nature of the petitioner's alleged right or interest can be determined;**
- (b) The grounds of the proposed intervention;**
- (c) The position of the petitioner in the proceeding.**

SCCCL and SACE clearly set out the facts from which the nature of the alleged right or interest can be determined, the grounds of the proposed intervention, and their position in this case. In this proceeding the Commission will explore a South Carolina Competitive Procurement Program for the competitive procurement of energy and capacity from solar and other renewable energy facilities by an electrical utility as allowed by S.C. Code Ann. Section 58-41-20 (E) (2). The Petition states that SCCCL and SACE will be directly impacted by the Commission’s development of a competitive renewable energy procurement program, since both organizations have members in South Carolina who receive electric service from the regulated utilities in South Carolina. Further, the Petition alleges that SCCCL and SACE have a direct and substantial interest in the development of programs for competitive procurement of renewable energy in South Carolina and that it

is their belief that such programs have the potential to reduce rates, improve risk management, enhance supply diversity, and prepare for future coal retirement, and that Commission adoption of stakeholder recommendations relating to competitive procurement in this proceeding will affect the rates and service provided to SCCCL, SACE and their members. Further, SCCCL and SACE note that they are interested in promoting industry best practices for competitive renewable energy procurement that would support a successful program that benefits and protects ratepayers. Lastly, SCCCL and SACE assert that they seek to intervene in this proceeding in order to advocate for the competitive procurement programs that benefit ratepayers and to promote the development of renewable energy, and that the two organizations plan to participate in the generic hearing, if this Petition is granted.

Pursuant to these facts, this Hearing Officer holds that SCCCL and SACE have successfully satisfied the criteria for intervention stated in the Regulation. Their interest in this matter can clearly be discerned, as can the grounds for the intervention. Further, the position of the two organizations is clearly stated.

As previously noted, there are no objections to the intervention. Accordingly, the Petition to Intervene of South Carolina Coastal Conservation League and Southern Alliance for Clean Energy is hereby granted in this Docket. This ends the Chief Hearing Officer's Directive.